



REQUEST FOR RESULTS 2006

Application Information for \$5,000 or Less

Vision

The First 5 - Placer Children and Families Commission believes *all children are our children*, therefore we shall create an environment that supports our children and their families in reaching their full potential.

General Information

Over the years, the Commission has invested millions of dollars in the community through the First 5 Partner Network to achieve a variety of outcomes for children prenatal through five years of age. A summary of all the currently funded Partners can be found on our web site, at www.placer.ca.gov/cfc. We would like to build on this base so please review the organizations that the Commission currently invests in to see where your proposed outcomes may fall and how your strategies may interconnect with others. Also, please take time to read the Commission's Strategic Plan as this funding initiative is intended to further the strategic results area goals reflected in the plan.

In order for First 5 Placer to positively impact children prenatal through 5 and their families, business as usual cannot just continue. Also, to keep First 5 funding from becoming a "prenatal through 5 silo" or categorical program, we must focus on results. By definition, no one agency can achieve comprehensive results for children and families on their own, as it requires communication, coordination, collaboration and possibly consolidation or integration with other partners in an adaptive networked model. Another premise is that no child should go without care and/or enrichment just so one agency can receive First 5 money while another does not. Consequently, we have set aside the competitive grant writing process that pits one vulnerable population against another. **What we desire are partnerships to achieve measurable sustainable results that improve the lives of our children and families.**

We ask our proposing partners to think through the important results that can be achieved with First 5 funding of \$5,000 or less, and work with us to measure the achievement of those results. Also, we believe that those who are delivering and receiving services most effectively measure the anticipated results. So as you think of the results you would like to achieve, also think about how you will measure those results as well as the processes you will employ to learn from your data. This application process should be viewed as an opportunity to achieve the sustainable results that matter for our children and families, not just another proposal process to fund your annual budget. First 5 staff is available to provide technical assistance to you in developing your results (i.e., outcomes) and to help with your evaluation design.

General Background About Proposition 10

The California Children and Families Act (Proposition 10) is the source of funding for this Request for Results initiative to invest in, promote, support, and improve the early development of children from the prenatal stages to five years of age. In Placer County, the First 5 Placer County Children and Families Commission (CFC) administer Proposition 10 funds. Staff support for the CFC is provided through a contract with the Placer County Department of Health and Human Services. Prop. 10 provides a historic opportunity to invest in the well-being of children and families in ways that will benefit all of us for decades to come. The overall intent of the California Children and Families Act is that local Commissions will engage service providers and consumers in an integrated partnership approach to achieve strategic results in five areas outlined in the Commission's plan:

- Improved Family Functioning
- Improved Child Development
- All Children Are Healthy
- Community Partnerships
- Supportive Environments

The primary focus of this investment initiative is on early childhood development. Scientific research, and practical experience has established that the emotional, physical and intellectual environment that a child is exposed to in the first years of life has a lasting impact on how the child's brain, body, and behavior develop. The experiences that infants and toddlers have with respect to parents and caregivers will influence how that child functions when he or she reaches school and later in life. Prior to Proposition 10, most money spent on children's programs was directed at children older than five years of age. The First 5 Placer Request for Results process is a significant step in the direction of focusing on the critical prenatal period and the first five years in a child's development. Also, through this process we intend to focus on results for all children, not just children who are "at risk." Therefore, enrichment, and strength-based results will have equal importance to the traditional deficit model strategies.

The Commission's Strategic Plan describes several high impact or high leverage strategies for each of the strategic result areas. These strategies summarize best practices and are supported by the community voice. The strategies are offered as guidelines. They are not meant to preclude additional innovative and creative strategies offered by community partners or strategies that may emerge during the Request for Results application process and full implementation of the First 5 Placer Strategic Plan. The terms used in the plan and in this Request for Results are defined as follows:

Strategic Result – A broad goal to be achieved throughout the County.

Outcome – A condition and/or behavior that will exist or, be enhanced as a result of activities or services funded or initiated through First 5.

Potential Strategies – Broad activities to achieve the goals and outcomes.

The First 5 Placer Strategic Plan is an integral part of this Request for Results application process. The plan may be viewed on our web site at, www.placer.ca.gov/cfc. All potential partners should review the plan to understand the goals, investment strategies and sustainability envisioned for First 5 in Placer County.

Qualities of a Good Application

The First 5 Placer Children and Families Commission is seeking results for children and families through applications that have the following qualities:

- Address the Strategic Results in the Commissions Strategic Plan (adopted on March 18, 2004).
- Promote sustainable, integrated, coordinated, accessible, and consumer friendly services (both formal and informal) serving children prenatal through 5 and their families.
- Provide cultural and language appropriate family centered services using a family team (Wrap-Around) approach. Reflects the cultural and linguistic diversity of the community addressed.
- Results-based to achieve genuine relevant outcomes and use meaningful performance measures.
- Inter-generational (where possible) to draw on and promote the strengths of families.
- Establish and/or expand linkages with traditional and non-traditional partners.
- Remove barriers and increase childcare, enrichment, health and family support services for all children prenatal through 5 and their families within Placer County.
- Build on other local First 5 Placer funded services, and/or those of a County contiguous to Placer County that shows specific benefits to Placer County residents.
- Utilize existing networks, collaboratives, and partnerships to leverage financial and social capital to foster sustainable results using inclusive, and integrated system-wide approaches.
- Build on current assets and strengths of the communities served.
- Demonstrate capacity to collect and measure proposed outcome data and ability to present data in a fashion that is understandable so that data can be used for programmatic, policy and funding decisions. It is recommended that applicants fully research the policy and fiscal impact of collecting and analyzing outcome data and plan accordingly.

Qualities of Eligible Applicant Organizations

- Applicants may be a non-profit community-based organization, association or group (including a joint venture with a fiscal sponsor), corporation, school, municipality or unit of local government located in Placer County.
- Private businesses may apply with a current business license and compliance with all local, State and Federal requirements that may apply.
- First 5 funds are subject to stringent auditing standards. Therefore, entities that receive these funds must use sound fiscal practices. Annual independent auditing will be required. It is recommended that applicants fully research the fiscal impact of having their First 5 funds independently audited and plan accordingly. If an independent audit is cost prohibitive for your organization, contact Commission staff before you submit your application to see if a reasonable alternative to the audit can be found.
- It is preferred that potential partners have experience in planning and delivering health, childcare, educational, enrichment and/or social services that promote, support and improve the early development of children from the prenatal stage to five years of age, and their families.
- By law, all First 5 investments must be results focused. Embedded in this concept is the need for a sustained organizational capacity to collect relevant outcome data and organize it in such a way that it can be reviewed in light of the anticipated results to learn: 1) If the results are being met; 2) If the results are in the process of being met; 3) The results are not being met. Therefore potential partners should seriously consider the organizational impact of being results-oriented in the First 5 context. Also, there will be an expectation that all partners will have the organizational capacity to participate in First 5 sponsored learning conversations to learn from their outcome data and use their First 5 funds in sustainable ways to support results.

Application Evaluation and Award Criteria

The Commission's Community Resource Committee (CRC) will evaluate each application to determine its responsiveness to the Commission's Strategic Plan and make a funding recommendation to the Commission. Interviews with applicants may or may not be required. Also, in recognition that not all applicants will be able to fully address all criterion, the CRC will be looking for reasonable compliance with the criteria listed below:

Specific Evaluation Criteria:

- Provides services, supports and/or programs for the prenatal through 5 population and their families.
- Addresses one or more of the Strategic Result Areas in the Strategic Plan.

- Adheres to the application and organization qualities listed above.
- Contains clear outcomes that describe conditions and/or behavior that will exist or be enhanced as a result of activities or services funded or initiated through First 5.
- Contains clear activities and/or services (processes) that will achieve the outcomes.
- Collects meaningful data and includes a reasonable, sustainable evaluation plan to measure achievement of the outcomes.
- A reasonable budget that leverages and/or maximizes other funds and directly supports the achievement of the outcomes.
- Demonstrates past or current results.
- Shows actual, as opposed to proposed networking and collaboration with other organizations (people) providing services to the population targeted in the application.
- Where appropriate, links with currently funded partners.
- Meaningfully addresses one or more of the sustainability approaches described in the First 5 Placer Strategic Plan.

Restrictions and Eligible Beneficiaries

- Consistent with the intent of the California Children and Families Act, no money from this application process may be used to supplant Federal, State, County or other money available to the applicant. In other words, activities funded under this process must be new or enhancements to existing activities. You may not withdraw funds currently supporting an activity and replace or supplant those funds with Proposition 10 funds.
- An exciting aspect of Proposition 10 funding is that all prenatal through 5 children and their families are eligible to receive the benefits of Proposition 10 funds. There is no means test or income level that must be met to receive services. Also, this funding is not necessarily geared toward “at-risk” populations. Nor are there any restrictions due to race, color or creed. Therefore, an organization receiving these funds must not discriminate in any way and must comply with all equal opportunity laws in the planning and delivery of services.

Required Documents

We have tried to make this application process user friendly but there are certain business practices that we must embrace in order to meet our obligations to the State Children and

Families Commission and our Community. Although we have kept the required documents to a minimum we realize that our minimum standards may pose problems for small or non-traditional organizations or informal parent groups. If you have an outcome you would like to achieve but you are not able to provide the required documents or partner with an organization that does, please talk to us about what you would like to see happen for children and families. Maybe we can find some alternatives. For the most part, however, to be considered for funding, applicants should provide the following documents that fit your organization or affiliation:

- If applicable, a current list of your Board of Directors with their affiliations.
- For collaborative approaches, letters of commitment or Memorandums of Understanding from key agencies or other partners outlining specific types and levels of commitment to your proposed activities and anticipated results.
- Proof of non-profit status, appropriate business license, and/or fiscal sponsor.
- Copy of your most recent independent CPA audit or audited year-end financial statement.
- Proof of appropriate insurance indemnifying the First 5 Placer County Children and Families Commission will be required at the execution of a contract.

Appeals

After the Commission has made its funding decisions any applicant may appeal a decision by filing in writing the reason for the appeal. The Commission will review all appeals and try to resolve them in a timely fashion. The Commission's decision on each appeal will be final and not appeal able. The Commission will give written notice setting forth the final outcome of the appeal.

Required Reports, Learning Conversations and Outcome Faires

In order to track progress and share the learning from the field, all funded partners will be required to prepare their outcome data for review and participate in learning conversations to share outcome data with the Commission, other partners, and the Community.

Also, the State Children and Families Commission requires an annual report from First 5 Placer. The report is an overview of the work performed through our Partner Network. Therefore, all funded partners will be required to provide the information needed to comply with the State reporting requirements.

"Outcome Faires" have been used every year since the implementation of First 5 in Placer County. All funded partners will be required to participate in the annual Outcome Faires. The purpose of these events is to: 1) Let the community see first hand, and understand what is going on with First 5 money in Placer County, 2) Provide an opportunity for the First 5 Partner Network to make new connections and/or recharge existing ones, and

3) Provide a safe, fun environment for families of children prenatal to 5 years of age to interact with each other and learn about the resources available to them through the partnership supported by the First 5 Placer Commission.

Timeline

There is no “deadline” for submission of applications. As funding permits, applications may be submitted through June 30, 2005.

How do I obtain an application?

Several ways are available to receive an application:

- ✓ Copies are available at our office for pickup between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, located at HHS Admin/CFC, 379 Nevada St., Auburn, CA.
- ✓ You may also obtain an application by U.S. Mail, Faxing and Emailing
- ✓ On-Line application available on our web site at www.placer.ca.gov/cfc - click open Request for Results 2005 Application. Complete the form, print a copy for yourself, and click send.

Requests for mailing, faxing, emailing, and questions about the on-line application can be made by contacting Bobbie Reagan at 530.886.1892 or emailing her at bregan@placer.ca.gov.

How many copies of my application should be submitted?

Just one and make a copy for your records.



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www.placer.ca.gov/cfc
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